

Academy of Root Development (Aust) Inc Annual Report 2012-13

Academy of Root Development (Australia) Incorporated has been established in Australia to source donations and on-going funding to support women's empowerment programmes in rural India.

ARD(Aust)Inc has been actively engaged in social service to poor and marginal communities in Gaya District, Bihar, India, since 2002.

In Australia:

ARD(Aust)Inc Membership:

69 members as of 30th June 2013.

Full Membership: \$10 per annum and/or regular contributors of \$240 or more per annum.

Fundraising Activities:

- Regular monthly donations form the core part of ARD(Aust)Inc fundraising
- Monthly second-hand clothes and book stall at Lismore Carboot Markets
- Sean's birthday celebration
- Goanna Bakery and Café collections

Contributions through other organisations:

Buy1Give1 - \$2,753

Buy1GIVE1 is an organisation that supports transactional giving, where businesses pledge a percentage of their sales to charitable organisations. B1G1 has been supporting ARD(Aust)Inc as a Worthy Cause since July 2009.

Funds Distribution:

In the 2012-13 financial year ARD(Aust)Inc has donated \$28,399 toward our programmes in India. Staff salaries, office expenses and administration costs involved in delivering Self Help Group support and capacity-building training has been the major focus of these funds.

ARD(Aust)Inc support for ARD programmes in India during 2012-13:

- Currently AU\$2,000 per month to support Self Help Group consolidation
- \$1500 to support new office infrastructure

Donors/Donations:

ARD(Aust)Inc is grateful for the regular donors who support the organisation on a monthly or annual basis. These donations form the backbone of our income and enable ARD(India) and now WEIV to plan ahead and give security to the programme and the staff.

Our stalwart Australian volunteers continue to support us by working at our monthly market stall stocked by goods that all sorts of wonderful people donate. We so value you all!

2012 - 2013 Revenue and Expense Report

ARD(Aust)Inc is grateful for the accounting services of Bob Irvin and Associates for preparing the 2012-13 Financial Statement.

Balance Sheet

Equity

Retained Profits 31,772

made up of:

Current Assets:

Petty Cash 2,890

Cash at Bank – SCU Gift Account 269

Cash at Bank – SCU Access Plus 27,679

Cash at Bank – Travellers Card 437

Cash at Bank – SCU Redi-Access 497

Total Assets 31,772

Profit and Loss Statement

Income

Donations & Fundraising 33,298

Ipex Buy1GIVE1 2,753

Membership Fees 10

Interest received 540

Total income 36,601

Expenses

Accountancy Fees 110

Administration Costs 213

Advertising, postage and stationary 163

Bank charges 177

Market Expenses 751

Overseas projects 28,399

Registration/Licences 51

Telephone 30

Travel Expenses 1,815

Total expenses 31,709

Net profit attributable to the association 4,892

In India:

The Indian Government in conjunction with the World Bank is launching an India-wide Self Help Group and Rural Livelihood Programme that aims to reach 80% of the rural poor. This is a large programme, designed to take-over all established Self Help Groups and introduce comprehensive training and regional marketing strategies to up-skill the participants and consolidate the resources of the groups.

This has had significant implications for ARD's Women's Empowerment project, as we can no longer form new Self Help Groups or support those we have created. All groups are currently in the process of being prepared for migration into the government program.

After extensive discussions with staff and the women in the field, ARD is introducing a new program to support the women and their families in the following key areas:

Health Awareness

The aim is to bring about attitudinal changes in health and well-being, as well as imparting practical information. The areas to be covered are: Reproductive and Child Health, as well as Community Health.

Vocational Training

Vocational Training in the area of Tailoring (on sewing machines) and Embroidery. The aim is to ensure that young women come into their marriage with a skill that will enable them to bring income into the family, thereby giving them status.

Functional Literacy

We will establish centres to teach Functional Literacy to girls and young women 13 to 19 years of age. These are girls who have been taken out of the education system to help work on the land, or in other ways earn money for their family. They will come from the poorest families and no fees will be charged.

We believe that the new programmes will meet many of the basic needs of the women and strengthen them at the grass-roots level to become respected participants in village life.

Administrative Changes in India

Last year in November we became aware that a significant amount of money was being misappropriated from ARD in India. We immediately ceased funding and went to India early this year to investigate and found that the field staff had not been paid for twelve months. ARD India management consistently denies that any money has been taken outside of the program expenses, but the amount missing is too much to have been simply overspent.

ARD(Aust)Inc has withdrawn from working with Sandeep, ARD India and the Trust it is part of. As of December 2012 we have dismissed all administrative staff, taken over management of the Self Help Groups and are running the program through our very capable field staff. Our organisation in India is now called Women's Empowerment in Indian Villages (WEIV).

The complexities of starting a new Charitable Trust in India have led us to establish a legal partnership with long-standing social organisation, Lok Shakti Shikshan Kendra (LSSK). They auspice a number of internationally funded programmes and work in the fields of Women's Empowerment, Reproductive Health, Schools and Land Rights. LSSK monitors our program, reports to us monthly and will submit an annual financial audit.

Monthly Success Story:



Name of Member: Manju Devi

Married with five children aged from 14 - 3

Village: Dadnapur, Panchayat - Ghatara

Name of SHG: Pragati Mahila SHG Date of formation: 12-12-2005

Condition before joining SHG: Manju Devi was very poor and the wife of a small-crop farmer. Manju would spend the days with her large family amidst great difficulty and scarcity of money. It was a very miserable condition for her and her family. They were not capable to fulfil their minimum essential needs, such as two proper meals per day, education for her children, maintain the family health needs, provision of adequate clothes etc.

After joining SHG: WEIV has motivated poor women to form a Self Help Group to alleviate poverty and make them self-reliant. Manju Devi joined this Group with great hope and many times took loan from Group for consumption and agriculture purpose, always repaying it in a timely manner. With the help of WEIV staff, Punjab National Bank gave a Rs.300,000 (\$6,000) loan to Pragati SHG and the Group gave Rs.50,000 (\$1,000) to Manju Devi on 24th November 2011 to start an Income Generating Activity. Manju Devi has bought a second Auto Rickshaw with this amount. Her husband of is driving Auto from Mathurapur to Guraru and as a result he is earning around Rs.200 - 300 (\$4-6) per day. Now Manju Devi is very happy with family. She is giving sufficient food and others essential things to her family and her children are going to coaching for tuition as well as school. She has now almost paid her loan to the Group. So, we can see that the SHG is playing a very vital role to develop the poor community and bringing prosperity and happiness in their lives.